



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**DECEMBER 7, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TWO COLUMBIA MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO COCAINE CHARGES**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two Columbia, Mo., men pleaded guilty to federal narcotics and money laundering charges, one of them as jury selection was about to begin in his trial.

**Jalon James Pittman**, 23, of Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey to charges contained in an April 9, 2004 indictment. **Pittman** entered his plea as jury selection was beginning in his trial on Dec. 6, 2004.

**Michael Lee McTye**, 31, also of Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to charges contained in the federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Pittman** admitted that he was in possession with intent to distribute cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on Sept. 16, 2003, in the Columbia area. **Pittman** also admitted that he participated with others in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine from October 2000 to September 2003 in the Columbia area, and that he participated in a conspiracy to commit money laundering between September and November 2003.

Under federal statutes, **Pittman** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$8 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

By pleading guilty, **McTye** also admitted to participating in the conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine.

Under federal statutes, **McTye** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, the Boone County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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